AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for determining whether a test compound is capable of affecting cell division, said method comprising:

a) contacting said test compound with isolated estrogen receptor beta (ERβ) and mitosis arrest deficient 2 (MAD2), or a binding fragment thereof, under conditions in which ERβ and MAD2, or a fragment thereof, have formed, or are able to form, a complex; and

b) determining an effect on ~~whether said test compound affects~~ said ERβ/MAD2 complex or complex formation in the presence of said test compound, as an indication that said test compound is capable of affecting cell division.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said MAD2 is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining is done *in vitro*.

4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining is done *in vivo*.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining is done using a yeast two-hybrid system.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said ERβ additionally comprises glutathione-S-transferase (GST) and said complex or complex formation is determined using a GST-fusion protein interaction assay.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining is done by fluorescence spectroscopy.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining is done by biomolecular interaction analysis.

9-12 (Cancelled)

13. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining step (b) identifies a test compound that promotes ERβ/MAD2 complex or complex formation, wherein said promotion results in a decrease in cell division.

14. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining step (b) identifies a test compound that interferes with or blocks ERβ/MAD2 complex or complex formation, wherein said interference or blockage results in an increase in cell division.